Harvesting for a good cause
Valley City State freshmen gather produce for Great Plains Food Bank

VALLEY CITY, N.D. – Spread over about two acres of farmland, nearly 200 freshmen from Valley City State University spent their Tuesday morning harvesting fresh produce for a good cause.

By: Brian Willhide, Forum Communications, INFORUM

VALLEY CITY, N.D. – Spread over about two acres of farmland, nearly 200 freshmen from Valley City State University spent their Tuesday morning harvesting fresh produce for a good cause.

Picking and gathering nearly 19 tons of produce, the students harvested primarily squash from an area farm that will be distributed to 278 food shelves, soup kitchens, shelters and other charitable feeding programs supplied by the Great Plains Food Bank.

“What’s so great about doing this here is that it shows something that can be done in all other communities in this state,” said Linda Sailer, director of product resources for Lutheran Social Services.

It marks the second year in a row the VCSU freshman class has participated in the community service project at retired Pastor Don Faust’s produce farm about 10 miles northwest of Valley City.

“The whole idea started about four years ago when I heard farmers were being asked to grow a little more produce, as they were anticipating a greater need for food in the community,” Faust said. “Last year, I got word that the university here in town had a program that was looking for an opportunity to help out somewhere, so I offered up my farm.”

Each fall semester, all new VCSU students take part in an orientation program called Learning to Live-Living to Learn, which encompasses topics including team building, adjusting to college and
stress management. One component of the program is having a community service project that allows the freshmen to make a contribution to the city and region.

“It was fun – it really didn’t even feel like work,” said Alex Conlon, a freshman math major at VCSU from Mandan. For Conlon and other students, knowing the fruits of their labor were going toward a good cause made it worth sacrificing their Tuesday morning.

Brian Willhide writes for the Jamestown Sun

Tags:north dakota, news, education